

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03

OC-06 CCO-00 /048 W

-----270836Z 061606 /11

R 270530Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8808

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SF, MA

SUBJECT: AIR MADAGASCAR SERVICE TO SOUTH AFRICA SUSPENDED

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0062 (NOTAL) (B) TANANARIVE 0151 TANANARIVE 0142

1. AIR MADAGASCAR INFORMS EMBASSY THAT AIR MADAGASCAR/AIR MAURITIUS FLIGHTS MD/MK 842, 843, 844 AND 845 SERVING SOUTH AFRICA FROM TANANARIVE AND MAURITIUS WILL NOT SERVE SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

2. WHILE THIS TERMINATES DIRECT SERVICE BETWEEN TANANARIVE AND SOUTH AFRICA, SEVERAL LESS CONVENIENT ALTERNATIVE ROUTES STILL EXIST THROUGH CONNECTING FLIGHTS IN MAURITIUS.

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3. JAN 26 RADIO MADAGASCAR ANNOUNCED THAT MADAGASCAR WILL NOT RETURN SOUTH AFRICAN CESSNA DETAINED JAN 18 (REF B) WHEN IT OVERFLEW AND LANDED MADAGASCAR WITHOUT PERMISSION. AIRCRAFT WAS ENROUTE TO MAURITIUS.

4. COMMENT: DECISIONS TO CANCEL AIR MADAGASCAR FLIGHTS TO SOUTH AFRICA AND TO CONFISCATE SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT

FOLLOW THE VISIT TO MADAGASCAR JAN 19-22 OF PAUL BERENGER, MMM SEC-GEN FROM MAURITIUS (REF C). BERENGER CRITICIZED MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM'S GOVERNMENT FOR BEING ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON SOUTH AFRICA AND, SPECIFICALLY, FOR PERMITTING SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT TO LAND FREELY IN MAURITIUS. BERENGER DID NOT, OF COURSE, CRITICIZE MADAGASCAR FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN MAURITIUS/TANANARIVE/MAPUTO/JOHANNESBURG WEEKLY FLIGHT FOR WHICH AIR MADAGASCAR SUPPLIES BOEING 737. NONETHELESS, ONE MUST CONCLUDE THAT IN GIVING BERENGER LAVISH ATTENTION, ALBEIT ON AN "UNOFFICIAL" VISIT, GDRM PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA HAS FINALLY RECOGNIZED HYPOCRISY OF LACK OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHILE AT SAME TIME CONTINUING BENEFIT FROM LUCRATIVE FLIGHT TO SOUTH AFRICA. MOREOVER, HAVING RECENTLY BEEN EMBARRASSED BY MASSACRE OF LARGE NUMBER OF COMORIANS IN MAJUNGA, RATSIRAKA IS PROBABLY STRIVING TO DISSIPATE THE RACIST OVERTONES OF THE MAJUNGA AFFAIR BY MAKING SUPREME EFFORT TO CHAMPION ANTI-APARTHEID CAUSE.SHEINBAUM

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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